



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on January 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall. The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Kathy Tucciarone, Spencer Morris, and Christine Lichatz. Mark Lombardi and Ben Terry were absent. Bill Nash, Town Hall liaison to the EDB, was absent. Moe Clare, Economic Development Coordinator, was in attendance. Kristin MacDonald was present at the meeting to serve as Secretary to the EDB.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2013.

The minutes from the regular meeting held on December 16, 2013 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ms. Lichatz, and all members were in favor.

2. Update on Warren business advisory group and new business from Moe Clare, Warren Economic Development Coordinator.

Mr. Clare reported there will be a meeting at the Town Hall every other Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. The meeting is to be attended by the department heads from Town Hall, as well as a representative from the EDB. The meeting will be posted on the town website and will be open to prospective business owners who might have questions about the process of opening a business in Warren. Mr. Clare also noted that the RI Office of Regulatory Reform team, which has previously met three times in Warren, will not be able to meet again for two months.

3. Discussion of Tourister development Master Plan presentation to Planning Board (January 27, 2013).

The master plan for the Tourister development is scheduled to be presented to the planning board on January 27, 2013. The meeting will be open to the public. The board continued to discuss several aspects of the master plan, including the plans for commercial space on the ground floor of the development. The board also commented on parking spaces, traffic, and the impact of the construction and development on Water Street and the north end of town. Ms. Dionne expressed concern that the development could have a negative impact on the Main Street commercial district. Ms. Lichatz had

questions about the developer's commitment to sustainability and sense of place. Ms. Dionne encouraged all board members to attend the planning board meeting and to ask questions when necessary. The board plans to draft a recommendation letter to the planning board in February.

4. Discussion and Action on EDB budget figure and items for EDB projects fiscal year June 2014-2015.

The board discussed developing a marketing campaign to promote business in Warren. The board agreed that the EDB budget funds for the upcoming year should be allocated for print and web advertising to promote Warren. A motion was made by Ms. Dionne to request \$5000.00 for print and web advertising for the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the motion was seconded, and all members were in favor. Ms. Dionne will submit the request to the Town Manager. The board will continue to develop a marketing strategy.

5. Discussion of EDB open seats.

Mr. Clare stated that he would find out why the open EDB positions are not being advertised on the town website.

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A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Lichatz, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald

February 16, 2014

